Poverty situation in the country

†877. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the situation of poverty has not improved even after ten years of liberallzation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the opportunities of employment have also reduced during the said period; and

(c) if so, whether Government would bring desirable change in the reform related programmes in view of the above factors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at National and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next large survey on consumer expenditure is being conducted during the period, July 1999 to June, 2000. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line since the beginning of the process of economic reforms and liberalisation in 1991, is available only for the year 1993-94. Hence, it is not possible to ascertain the change in poverty during the period of economic reforms. However, comparing two latest estimates, 1987-88 and 1993-94, it is observed that the percentage of people living below the poverty line declined by 2.9 percentage point.

(b) As per the comprehensive surveys on Employment and Unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the average annual growth rate of employed persons

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

as per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) has been 2.43 per cent during the period 1987-88 and 1993-94.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Criteria for Allocation of Central Funds

878. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for allocation of central funds to States and Union Territories under major rural povery alleviation programmes adopted on the recommendation of the Lakdawala Exprerts Groups is adversely affecting Karnataka which has budgeted schemes to supply subsidised foodgrains to the poor; and

(b) if so, what are the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Until 1997-98, the funds under major Centrally Sponsored rural poverty alleviation programmes were allocated to States/UTs on the basis of Task Force estimates of poverty for 1987-88. The share of Karnataka was 5.245% as per these estiamtes. The Lakdawala Expert Group estimates of poverty for 1993-94 were accepted by the Full Planning Commission in March, 1997. It was decided that the Expert Group estimates of poverty for 1993-94 should be used as the basis for inter-State allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes. However, a comparison of State-wise share in acordance with the Task Force estiamtes for 1993-94 and Expert Group for 1993-94 respectively revealed that some States including Karnataka were adversely affected in their respective share of allocations by the